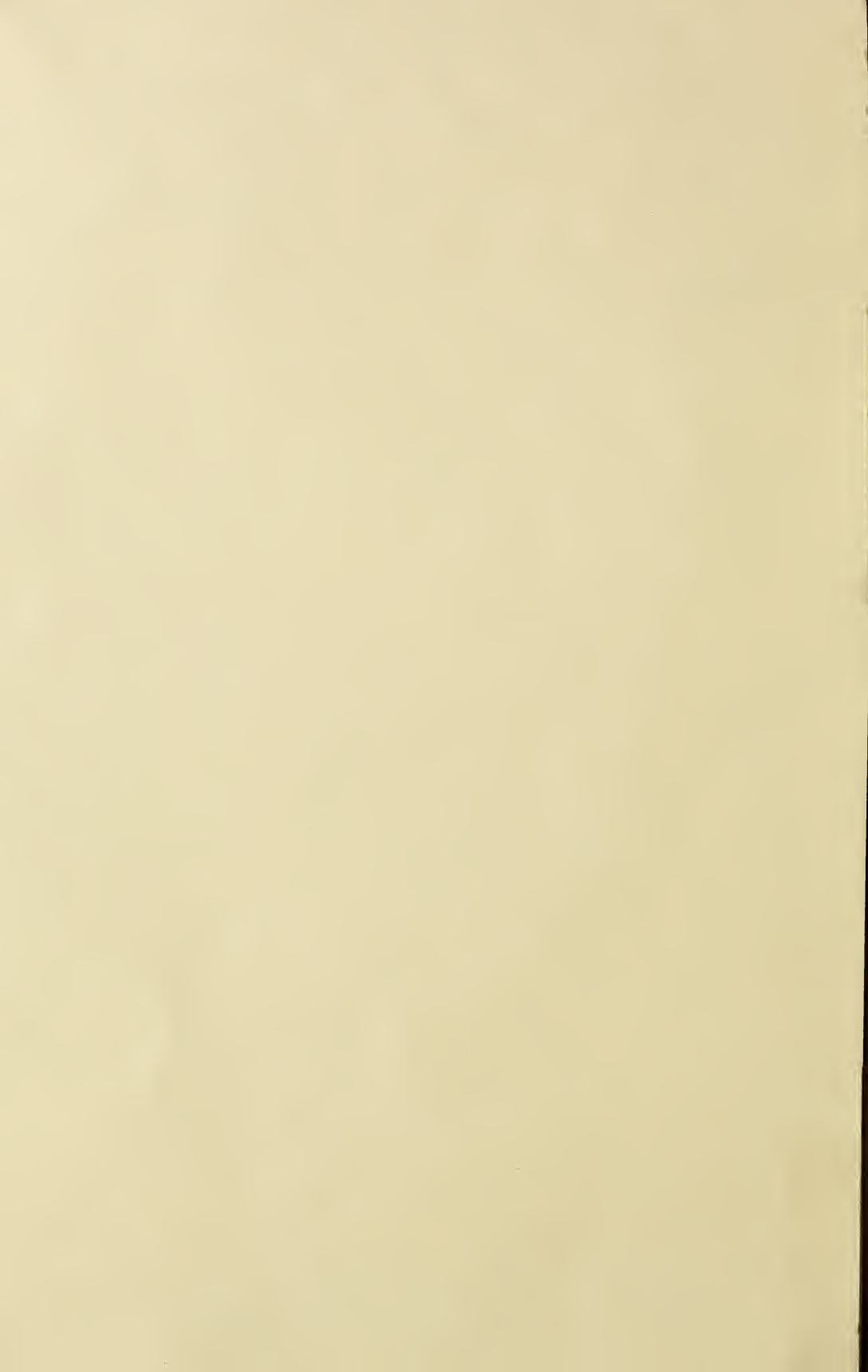


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Agriculture, Horticulture, Live Stock and Rural Economy,

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

## AND NEW FARM.

Vol. XXV. BALTIMORE, February 1888.

No. 2

### HOW EASY IT IS.

How easy it is to spoil a day!

The thoughtless words of cherished friends;

The selfish act of a child at play;

The strength of a will that will not bend;

The slight of a comrade, the scorn of a foe;

The smile that is full of bitter things,—

They all can tarnish its golden glow,

And take the grace from its airy wings.

How easy it is to spoil a day

By the force of a thought we did not check!

Little by little we mold to clay,

And little flaws may the vessel wreck.

The careless waste of a white-winged hour,

That held the blessing we long had sought,

The sudden loss of wealth or power,—

And lo! the day is with ill inwrought.

How easy it is to spoil a life!—

And many are spoiled ere well begun—

In home-light darkened by sin and strife,

Or downward course of a cherished one;

By toil that robs the form of its grace,

And undermines till health gives way;

By the feverish temper, the frowning face,

The hopes that go, and the cares that stay.

A day is too long to be spent in vain;

Some good should come as the hours go by,—

Some tangled maze may be made more plain,  
Some lowered glance may be raised on high.

And life is too short to be spoiled like this,  
If only a prelude, it may be sweet.

Let us bind together its threads of bliss,

And nourish the flowers around our feet

### PRESIDENTIAL FORECASTINGS.

We propose in this article to speak wholly from the point of view of the farming interests of our country. It may be that the manipulations of the leaders of the two great political parties are too far advanced to be at all influenced by any considerations we may be able to bring forward now; but our work is not intended for to-day merely, it is a work for the future. We shall begin now the agitation which we hope to spread widely enough to influence the action of the great parties at a future day.

It is an established fact that numerically the farmers are very far in advance of all other classes. They outnumber all other classes combined. And when we say this, we give to them a voting influence

which no party can afford to ignore. It only requires a proper direction at any time to revolutionize the control of the government. This is a simple statement of a truth, which is now in the process of enforcement throughout the land, both by the press and by individual teaching and example. The latter method is by far the most powerful and is accomplishing great results for the future. In a country like ours numbers are everything when the ballots are thrown and counted. We must always remember that we—the farmers of the United States—have the numbers. The ballots that pronounce weal or woe are in our hands. We are, in fact and in deed, responsible for the proper casting of these ballots, and our future and the future of our country depend upon how we cast them.

We do not expect to interfere with any farmer's political creed now or hereafter; but certain great principles should not be forgotten by us. The principal one is this: The prosperity and success of the farming interests lie at the very foundation of our country's welfare. Unless these are secured by the general conduct of governmental affairs the result becomes more than questionable as to the stability of our government and the happiness of our people. Each farmer should take this as his starting point in all his political action. Each one should insist upon this view and guage his ballot by it.

The present depression in all the farming interests in our country has resulted in great part from the neglect of farmers to recognize the above principle when they have gone to the polls. They have gone there not as farmers, but as members of one of the great parties. They have cast their votes for men who knew nothing and cared nothing for farming interests, and who sought office for its emoluments in the way of rule, prominence

of position, notoriety or money. The farming interests were naturally neglected by these men, and they have suffered.

We do not suppose that the government can accomplish all that is needed to secure agricultural prosperity; but it can certainly contribute largely towards securing it. And we are happy in believing that the larger share of intelligence which farmers are obtaining with each passing year, is enforcing upon them convictions to this end. They are feeling that those who control the government, should be more closely connected with the great agricultural interests of the land. If not members of the great fraternity, they should be practically identified with those interests, so that no mistakes could occur in the general tendency of governmental action.

The farming class, also, in this land is gradually absorbing much of the very best talent. Men of broad, comprehensive minds, men of world wide travel and experience, men of high associations, men of large attainments in the sciences, men of literary culture, men of legal fame, statesmen and jurists and churchmen are turning their attention to the soil, and are becoming farmers not only in name, but in fact—directing the minutiae of farm affairs and literally placing their own hands to the plough. This is more generally the case now than ever before in the history of our world, and more generally the case in our country than in any other land. It is this element which demands of the government more powerfully than ever in the previous history of our country, the recognition of the farmers' claims for such laws as shall benefit this most numerous class of our citizens. We are glad to enroll this element of power in the ranks of the farmers. We see in every addition of cultivated mind or of executive ability to



our ranks a vastly augmented power to achieve in the future the great prosperity of our beloved country.

We now come to the great subject of our thoughts. The Farmers of this country need and must have FARMER PRESIDENTS. They do not need men who merely own land, and in their official capacity ignore even that fact, having no interest beyond their personal success with some party—men who are ignorant of the manifold relations of the agricultural interests to the general laws of the country. They do not need in the halls of legislation, either state or national, a large body of men devoted to pursuits antagonistic to the farmers' interest. They need always a very large preponderance of those who belong practically to the farming community. At the head of our government, however, they need a farmer who is in every respect practically devoted to the fostering of agricultural pursuits, who by recommendation and skillful management will promote the welfare of farming, of farmers, of farmers' families, and thereby solidify the great country which the farmers uphold and which their ballots must preserve.

From the ranks of the farmers at present, plenty of good timber can be found from which to construct legislatures, and many a prominent man among farmers is now well fitted to occupy the President's chair, and to carry out the great ends needed by the agriculturists in perfect harmony with the great interests of all other classes of our countrymen. We could mention in both of the great parties practical farmers, already prominently before our countrymen, who would grace the position of President. But this is not our work now. We wish only to call attention to the fact that we must prepare ourselves as farmers to demand in the future FARMER PRESIDENTS.

It is not to be denied that others than

farmers, may be fully posted as to the wants of the farming interests, and may be as skillfully prepared to assert them intelligently, and to recommend and press the needful laws towards enactment. This is not to be denied; but we want the man as President whose heart is a Farmer's Heart and whose head is a Farmer's Head, and who knows from personal experience the whole scope of what he champions before the people and before the world. It is on this account we say, let us in the future have FARMER PRESIDENTS. Let us begin now to labor for this end. Let us by voice and pen bring every influence to bear, so that the great parties which divide our country will realize that it is for their interests to give us what we need, what we will have by-and-by, what their very existence depends upon in the future: FARMER PRESIDENTS. Both parties must give us such candidates, unless they would see at last a great principle overthrowing party fealties and all the minor issues of politics.

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For the Maryland Farmer.

### MORE PECULIARITIES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

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FROM OUR  
SAN DIEGO CORRESPONDENT.

I miss the trees more than any one thing; the hills, from lack of them, and the treeless plains, seem desolate and barren. In the city streets two principal trees are used for shade—the Eucalyptus and the Pepper tree. The Eucalyptus is a tall tree, has a coarse shaggy bark—long pieces hanging loose as on a shag-bark walnut tree—while the leaf is long and narrow; and is quite thick. To me the Pepper tree is far more beautiful in every particular. It is one of the most graceful

trees that bless the habitations of the city. It is of a weeping habit, just enough so to captivate the attention. The foliage is thick and abundant, the leaves long and feathery as they respond to every passing zephyr. In blossom time the creamy flowers delight you, and when the crimson berries follow, you wonder you were so pleased in the spring time with the pale blossoms, when now all is so rich and beautiful. It is always a thing of beauty.

It is the last of December and we are making our garden. Seeds are scarce and I often wonder if your eastern seeds would be of value in this climate; I must give them a trial. All the vegetables and all the flowers and fruit with which I have been familiar from childhood are here, and many others which in their outdoor growth are new and strange to me. Of these latter are the Figs, Bananas, Olives, Pomegranates, Guavas, Oranges, Lemons and Limes, and perhaps others. The new Orange crop begins now to make its appearance, and the very large fair fruit of the Washington Navel variety gladdens the eyes. But it is as yet high in price, as it is early in its season. I do not yet know the proper season of each variety of fruit here; but as they appear I shall make a note of it. The Chinamen raise the garden truck for the city. They have gardens in the valleys among the hills, in warm sheltered nooks, and never allow the ground to be idle. While one is selling a crop, his partner is planting and cultivating another where the previous one stood.

Irrigation is popular here. The farmers and gardeners prefer to regulate heat and moisture and improve upon the caprices of Dame Nature. They cannot always guard against her floods; but they can remedy the spells of parching which so often follow. Human skill and perseverance guided by experience triumph over great obstacles.

A short time since we went to see a display of vegetables from San Louis Obispo, and it would have caused our eastern farmers to open their eyes, even as it did those of the writer. Pumpkins weighing 400 lbs. and squash requiring four strong men to lift one of them from the wagon. Beets that could never be cooked, because no kettle in any household would be large enough to hold one of them. The smallest of the Onions weighed 4 lbs. each, and the Potatoes, white and good throughout, weighed 8 and 10 lbs. each. What do you say, when I tell you one of these potatoes was enough to last a family for two days?

But I must not give you too many items at once. This is a great country and I shall have plenty more to write about by-and-by.

E. W. S.

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#### THE HOT BED.

The general size of hot bed sash is three feet by six feet, and it is best therefore to have the bed six feet wide, and long enough to raise whatever early plants you may desire. Locate the bed so that it may be sheltered from the north and west winds, and have the lower edge of the sash just above the ground while the upper edge is perhaps six or eight inches higher. If the bed can be sheltered on the north and on the west by a board fence, it will be an advantage. In this location dig a pit six feet wide and as long as you expect to make your hot bed. It should be about two feet deep. Into the bottom of this pit place fresh horse manure and trample it down well, having it fully one foot in thickness after it is tramped and well packed in place. This is the heat for your bed and must not be slighted, for all your success depends upon doing this well. If your fresh horse manure is not of sufficient quantity you can increase its bulk by adding plenty of



forest leaves to the manure and they will not injure its heating quality.

After you have thus packed your horse manure into the pit, put over it the board frame, and press it down solidly upon the manure in the pit. All around the outside of this frame pack the soil against it as solidly as possible to keep out the cold. Now fill into this bed about eight inches in depth of the best garden soil highly enriched, and made fine by proper working. Over all place the glass sash, and you have as good a hot bed as anyone needs for starting early vegetables and raising early plants. You cannot use this immediately, as the first heat would be too great, and would burn up everything placed in it. Let it stand a few days, till the violent heat subsides and then plant with whatever seeds may be desirable.

Egg plant and pepper among the first, then tomatoes, lettuce, cabbage, sweet potatoes, cucumbers, radishes, &c. Before planting these give the surface of the bed a thorough raking, and in this way destroy a multitude of weeds which may have got a strong start during the four or five days you have waited for the heat to subside. Plant your seed always in rows so that you can have some opportunity to cultivate them. We generally have the bed all prepared so that we can plant our seed about the first week in March, and even then we have some nights so cold that it is necessary to cover up the bed with mats or old carpeting to keep out Jack Frost.

Making the bed and planting the seed in it are only the beginnings of the work, and the bed must have the best of care, and much judgment must be exercised in watering it, in covering it or in taking away the covering, in allowing it air or keeping it tightly closed. No rules can be given for this work, in print; and just here is where the skill of the gardener becomes conspicuous. Your entire success depends upon how you attend to your bed

after the plants have shown themselves above ground. Often half a day's neglect means destruction.

By all means have a hot bed, and by all means watch it and attend to it.

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For the Maryland Farmer.

#### A COMMON EVENT.

Mr. Editor.—I want to give you the history of a farm, which is now said to be almost worthless, and a great amount of similar land is now to be had in the various parts of Maryland. This farm—of course I cannot name it definitely—was once bought by a very enterprising farmer, who gave about \$20 an acre for it. It was well fenced but was in a very poor condition, and its proximity to Baltimore was all that made it worth the twenty dollars an acre to this purchaser. He took hold of the work with a will. He raised various crops, which he marketed in Baltimore, and never came back to his farm without a load of manure of some description to enrich his land. In a few years his farm was almost a garden and his vegetable crops sold in Baltimore brought him a fine income, with many comforts and luxuries for his family. He was repeatedly offered two hundred dollars an acre for his farm, and at one time as high as three hundred and fifty dollars an acre for it; but he had no desire to sell it, and kept it till he died. His heirs sold it for two hundred and twenty five dollars an acre and moved away.

It then fell into the hands of a careless man, who attended very little to the place, and it began rapidly to run down. He left the work wholly to hired men and spent most of his time in sporting until the income of the place barely sufficed to meet its expenses. At this time he received an offer of one hundred dollars an acre; but would not listen to it, for he

considered it worth just as much as when he bought it.

Time swept on. He rented the place out to a tenant who cropped it unmercifully, and put no fertilizers upon it. In a very short period it fell below the condition it was in when it was purchased by its first redeemer for twenty dollars. The fences ran down; the out-buildings began to look dilapidated; the dwellings needed paint; the surroundings of the house were neglected.

One day it was put up at auction and brought the pitiful sum of twelve dollars an acre.

I have written this history because I think it contains a good lesson for your readers. The value of a farm depends upon how it is treated by the man who owns or works it. If he is an intelligent, practical farmer, working understandingly, he can make his farm worth hundreds of dollars an acre. But if he is a careless farmer, never reading nor knowing the methods of improving his opportunities, he will make his farm a worthless incubance, no matter how valuable it may be when he first gets it. J. G. F.

J. G. F. has given us a good lesson in the above communication. As he says, many farms in Maryland are in the condition of the one he has mentioned. They only need wide-awake, reading, enterprising men to bring them into a high state of cultivation and make them really valuable. Plenty of farms, within easy reach of the Baltimore and Washington markets may be bought at ten to twenty dollars an acre, which in a very short time may be made worth at least one hundred dollars an acre. You who wish farms come into this region and see them.

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER, with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

For the Maryland Farmer.

### CORN—MAIZE.

Considering the great variety of uses—to man and beast—to which our Indian Corn can be applied, together with the ease with which it can be grown and the rich yield which it affords, it is a most interesting and one of the most important crops which the farmer can produce. It is of the first importance that he should understand and practice the best mode of growing it.

The first point to be attended to is procuring or securing good, sound seed, of the best varieties known to the farmers.

Of course it is now too late to secure from his own crop the best seed for the coming summer's planting, but the best and soundest that can be had should be used. The true way to secure most prolific and early seed, is to go into the field, about the time the corn is ripe; select the earliest stalks and those that have two or more good-sized ears to the stalk; thus, the most prolific and early seed will be secured; pick off these ears, with husks on, wreath them up in bunches of three or four, hang up in a dry place, free from attack by rats, frost or dampness, till the time for planting.

Then shell and soak the seed one night in salt brine—roll in lime or plaster to dry it for planting, when it should be covered one to two inches deep. This soaking in brine will cause it to germinate and come up two to four days sooner than if planted dry besides causing it to grow more vigorously, freer from destruction by worms and other insects. Some farmers prefer soaking in copperas water or coal tar water—all of which are good—but my experience has been most successful with salt brine, and rolling in lime, in many trials.

And then I have had best results from deep, fine plowing. With deep pulverization there will be less damage from drought



as moisture will more freely rise from below in a dry time, while also the roots of the grain can run deeper for moisture and sustenance. The really best preparation is deep, sub-soil plowing in the late fall, and then liberal, heavy harrowing in the spring before planting. Then the oftener the ground is cultivated or worked, the less the crop will suffer from drought and the stouter it will grow. These things I know.

D. S. C.

Washington, D. C.

### BEANS.

New York is the great bean-producing State, having produced 1,303,444 bushels in the census year against 378,971 in California, 181,756 in Maine and 167,658 in Michigan, the other States producing very much smaller quantities, the aggregate of all being only 3,075,050 bushels. The demand everywhere, especially in the South and Southwest is steadily increasing. The supply in New York this year is very small, and prices here and elsewhere have gone up more than 50 cents a bushel, and would have gone higher were it not for the importation of over 50,000 bushels of foreign beans within two months in spite of an import duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. This is the highest importation since 1881, when over 1,000,000 were imported during the year owing to the very short crop. In view of the fact that beans are the most nutritious of vegetables; that they are very palatable and wholesome, properly cooked, in all forms from soup to "baked;" that they are easily grown, always a profitable crop, why is it that more attention isn't given to their cultivation, and that every year we have to import from one-sixth to one-third of all used in the country?

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER, with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

For the Maryland Farmer.

### THE FARMERS WHO DON'T READ.

Our country is well stocked with this kind of Farmers and, Mr. Editor, I have been visiting some of them in different sections of your State, where your journal would make a revolution if it were generally read. While I have found many who take your paper and some of the northern prints and are as a general thing well up with the times, I find a large number who have neither paper nor book to enlighten them.

Such a farmer is working his farm just as his grandfather and his father worked it before him, getting about five bushels of wheat or ten bushels of corn to the acre.

He is the possessor of the old fashioned scrub stock and evidently thinks they are prime cattle, although they give him at most 2500 pounds of milk in a year.

He has never heard of a silo and lets his cows feast on dried corn stalks, standing without shelter during the winter in cold and storm day and night.

His table is supplied with hog and hominy from January 1, to December 31, with boiled turnips and corn mush as a variety.

He plods along with the old plow, the ancient harrow, scatters his seed by hand, threshes with the flail on the barn floor, makes his butter by dog power and sells it at the village store for groceries.

He hears of canneries and creameries; but thinks such new-fangled concerns are made to swindle the farmers and he will keep clear of them.

Such a farmer, if he could be prevailed upon to read for a few months would find himself in almost a new world. Get him out of the idea that he would be trying to "book-farm," and let him read concerning the improved stock, improved implements, improved seeds, the advantages of different crops for canneries, the revolution which

creameries are making in the labor of the farmer's household, the vast improvement which ensilage is making, so that his stock comes out in the spring as slick and lively as though just from a September pasture; get him to see the advantages of plenty of vegetables and fruit for his table, the blessings of association with other farmers in adopting the best ideas of cultivation, of fertilizing and of harvesting; so that his old, hard shell would be broken through and the light of this century would begin to reach him, and then he could be redeemed.

The farmer must read if he would prosper. Alas for those who are so willing to remain in the darkness! Can you not, Mr. Editor, invent some method of opening the eyes of these farmers? Many of them would rather take a horse-whipping than read the best book in the country. But I hope your subscribers will try and shame such into doing better.

L. J.

#### PENNSYLVANIA EXPERIMENT STATION.

We have received from a very prominent Educationalist in Pennsylvania the following extract from the *Practical Farmer*, of Philadelphia. He accompanies it by some pointed remarks, in which he says: "The so-called Experimental Farm has been located among the mountains, where both climate and soil are so different from that of the great farming region of the State, that as far as benefitting the Agriculturist is concerned, the experiments might as well be conducted in Manitoba."

The Agricultural College Farm of Maryland on the contrary is one of the best situated of any in our Country, and comprises such a vast variety of soils, as should make it the standard experiment station of this whole region. May it soon

become such. The following is the extract alluded to above:

"In fact they, the Farmers of Pennsylvania, long ago found out that the site in Centre county is no place for an agricultural experiment station, and that nothing of any value is to be expected from experiments conducted there.

The Central Experimental Farm, as it used to be called, has been in existence as such for thirty years, and a large part of the pamphlet before us is taken up with a "historical sketch," which is little else than a pitiful apology for doing next to nothing during that time. The following extract may be taken as a sample: "A large collection of trees and plants was set out in arboretum order, but fences were wanting, and the stock (which also was experimented upon in regard to winter feeding, steamed feed, etc.), got the better of the plantings." So while the Professor was experimenting on the stock, the stock were experimenting on the "collection of trees and plants set out in arboretum order," although what the experiments? on this kind of "winter feeding" amounted to we are not told.

Two passages in the apology deserve more prominence than the writer has given them. They fully justify the opinion generally entertained by farmers as to the entire unfitness of the experimental station to serve its intended purpose. "In the high, dry, open location of the College farm, \* \* \* sorts of maize, etc., sent us from the lower counties, found the season too short. Fruits from the river valleys or near the lakes or ocean, failed to make healthy growth in most cases." And again, "A killing frost in June 1859, upset all observations as to comparative hardiness in grape vines and fruit trees for that year and years following, and was a disheartening blow." The fatal error was the selection of the "high, dry, open.

location" among the mountains, with its "killing frosts." What were to be expected but "disheartening blows," and these will be repeated until the managers at last come to see what everybody else sees already, that a locality must be selected, the climate of which is like that of the farming regions of the State.

As we write we see in the morning papers that the Eastern Experimental Farm, admirably situated for all the objects of an experiment station has been sold! The farmers of Pennsylvania, recognizing the utter folly of trying to get results of any value from an experiment station in Centre county, contributed money towards buying for the purpose the one in Chester County, which has just been parted with for \$10,000. Rightfully, part of this money should have been returned to the contributors, but it all, we are told, was turned into the treasury of the State College, and the last hopes of benefit to Pennsylvania agriculture from an experiment station are blasted. Nor can it be pleaded in excuse that the Farm must be located at the College, for our sister State of New York has its Experiment Station at Geneva, and its land grant College (Cornell) at Ithaca.

#### GOVERNMENT TAXES—ROADS.

It is often said, in a kind of superficial way that farmers bear the burden of all the taxes. This is not that they are as individuals overtaxed; but because of their numbers and from the fact that all their property is visible, and also that their tools, implements and machinery are all costly with the great additions made to that cost by the government monopoly given to manufactures.

The government has hundreds of millions of dollars, received directly and indirectly from its citizens as taxes, lying idly in the vaults of the treasury. This is so much

money taken from the people and not allowed for legitimate purposes of traffic and for those pursuits which distribute money among the masses to their comfort and prosperity. The President has recognized this fact in his message to the present Congress and suggested modifications to prevent a further plethora of the treasury and further robbing of the people.

It seems to us that a few of these millions of burdensome taxes might profitably be returned to circulation by the prosecution of such public works as would benefit the country, and diffuse as widely as possible among the masses the money which has been gathered from them.

In no particular is the contrast greater between the United States and Europe than in our public roads. We believe that Congress might very profitably expend a few hundred millions in perfecting a system of roads of the very best character throughout the length and breadth of our land. All the material needed for perfecting such roads, as would be monuments of wisdom to the coming generations, are within our borders, and a series of great highways thus opened would prove an incalculable blessing to all future inhabitants of our country.

Farmers and farms need good roads, and superfluous taxes spent for this purpose would reach the very parties who have thus far contributed them to the overflowing treasury.

Other interests may doubtless be mentioned where money may be spent to great advantage; but we believe no other could be devised where the expenditure would reach so many who have actually contributed it to the government, and where the amount of permanent good would result that would come from these systematically built highways.

No difficulties can be in the way of appropriations for this purpose, even though accompanied by the strictest rules



of expenditure and methods of building the roads. No one thing needs more to be methodised and placed on a permanent basis. The farmers of the country will heartily endorse this method of getting rid of the present treasury burdens.

#### Fast Records.

Rosaline Wilkes trotted her mile the past season in 2.18½.

Skylight Pilot made her time 2.19 in September last.

Houri at Lexington made 2.19¾.

Susie S. trotted a mile in 2.20 in the third heat of a race.

Governor Hill trotted his mile in 2.20.

Conde at Stockton, California, trotted his mile in 2.20.

Ansel in October last trotted a mile in 2.20 at San Francisco, Cal.

California seems to be a field where fast records accumulate. In 1886 the fastest record of a two-year-old was there at 2.25, while two gave the fastest three-year-old record there at 2.23, and the fastest four-year-old record 2.16.

#### A SENATOR'S FARM.

A HANDSOME FARM IN MICHIGAN—  
SENATOR PALMER'S JERSEYS  
AND PERCHERONS.

The other day I mounted my bicycle and ran out to the magnificent Font Hill Farm of United States Senator T. W. Palmer. I gathered a few notes that may be as interesting to your readers as they were to me, although I am not much of a farmer.

The farm consists of nearly seven hundred acres, more than a square mile of land, and is only six miles from the Detroit City Hall. An electric railway carries you within a short distance of the

farm. No one but a millionaire could afford to own and keep up such a place. It is worth an immense amount of money, a quarter of a million could not buy the property to-day at current prices. For the past four years at least \$25,000 a year has been spent on improvements alone. There are over twenty miles of tile underdraining on the farm.

All this property has been in the family of the Senator since the Indians relinquished their claim to it. Much of the improvements have been to make grazing lands from swamp and marsh, and to-day finer fields can be seen on no man's property.

The day I was out I was rather fortunate in finding the Senator himself there, showing a party of friends around. If there is anything the Senator delights to do it is to point out the beautiful Percheron horses and Jersey cows to his friends.

He said he did not believe that any farmer should keep more than one breed of cattle or horses. He has made his choice the Percheron horse and the Jersey cow, and went to England and France and imported the best stock he could find. He is now the President of the Percheron Horse Breeders' Association of the United States. Recently, while abroad, he made a speech to the breeders of the Percheron horse, which must have quite captivated them, as they made him a present of a large gold medal for owning the finest Percherons in this country.

One of his friends asked him how it was he took more interest in the Percherons than in other breeds? "It was from a painting," he said. "I was studying Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair" and was much taken by the action and looks of the horses there pictured and found they were Percherons. Shortly afterwards I was in Paris where they are used as omnibus horses, I concluded they were the horses I wanted,

and when I came home purchased some; since then have imported them."

In reply to a question as to the difference between a Norman and Percheron, he said that the Norman is coarser, slower, heavier and has less powers of endurance. The Percheron is the result of a cross between the Arabian and Norman. If you study him closely you will find that he has perfect digestion, which enables him to do a great amount of work on little food. He has a perfect temper and don't fret; is full of intelligence and saves his strength; his skin is thin; his hair is fine, and combined with the strength of the Norman he has better blood, wind and bone, while his Arabian blood gives him a quicker gait.

We all walked through the huge barns and visited the horse and cow stables. The buildings and yards occupy acres of ground, and the buildings have cost nearly \$25,000. He has sixty Percheron horses and seventy-five cows. Most of the horses are worth over \$1,000 each and many of the cows will run up well in the hundreds. His stallions are named after the Marshals of France, the most notable being Marshals Brune and Ney. Marshal Launes, only three years old, weighs 1,800 pounds. Another Marshal weighs 1,000 and is only eighteen months old, while his brother, another Marshal of only fifteen weeks, weighs 725 pounds. The Senator remarked that he had so many that he had about run out of Marshals.

We were shown a pair of three-year-olds named Rosa Bonheur and Bluetie, who, not long since, took their first lesson in plowing. The manager took them out in the field at eight o'clock and by nine they were plowing as though they had been used to it all their lives. They will tip the beam at 1,600 pounds each, and they together are worth \$2,500.

The cow stables were next visited.

They consist of a two-story building, each floor of which has an area of 40x120 feet, besides a wing 90x30. These stables are said to be the finest of the kind in the country. A large cellar is underneath the whole building. In the cellar is a 15 horse-power engine which does the work. It raises the hay on the hay fork; it carries grain to its bins on the second floor and then lowers it to the mill again and grinds it into feed and then carries it back to another bin, where it is kept until wanted for use. This engine also pumps the water and cuts the ensilage up for the two immense silos, which are twenty feet square and reach from the second story way down in the ground. A part of the barn is heated by steam, and in the coldest weather the chill is taken off the water. Everything about the buildings and grounds are kept very clean and neat. In the stables are posted up rules in regard to the care and keeping of the stock. Each animal is called by its own name when spoken to and always occupies the same stall. These stalls have the animal's name printed on together with its pedigree.

The Senator does not live on the farm, but occupies a magnificent house in the city; but last year he had erected on the farm an old-fashioned log house, or rather, Mrs. Palmer did. It is very unique and a good deal of their time when in the city is spent there, Mrs. Palmer being very fond of animals. Quite a number of old-timers were found in the different buildings comfortably cared for, simply because she wished it.—A. F. P. in *Orange Co. Farmer*.

THOUSANDS of bushels of potatoes were frozen in the ground in Northern Michigan, and with the market at sixty cents it makes the farmers more tired than if they had harvested the crop.

## OUR ROADS.

Last spring, as all will remember, the roads throughout our State were in an execrable condition. Farmers within a few miles of our large cities, were as thoroughly isolated as though hundreds of miles intervened between them and civilization. The roads in many instances were bottomless quagmires, impassable for teams, and seldom used even by foot-passengers, who preferred the rail fences or the neighboring fields. Dire necessity, alone, would force the farmer to leave his home during the prevalence of these fearful weeks of travel on these fearful roadways. During the coming spring, we shall most likely have a repetition of this experience, at least approximately, for very little has been done to improve the roads during the past year, and the season alone must be relied on for any better result than we had last spring.

It seems to us that only one remedy belongs to the farmers, and that is, their own personal labor on those roads which border their own farms. The taxes they are now paying, and have paid year after year in the past, have been so much money virtually thrown away. Enough has been expended in this careless way to have macadamized every road in our State in the very best manner, had it been thus appropriated. We might then have been driving over highways, free of toll, as smooth as a house floor. Cold or hot, wet or dry, these roads would have been servicable, and the repairs upon them would have been of a trifling character comparatively.

It is the height of folly to continue to expend money, in the manner of the past, upon roads as at present constructed. The money goes into the hands of those who are wholly incompetent, either from lack of skill, or from lack of power, to make permanent work on the roads. Their

repairs are but temporary, lasting only from spring until winter, to be renewed again after the next spring has developed additional evidences of incompetency.

This winter is the proper time in which to consider this matter of the roads, and, getting together, let the farmers resolve to have roads which shall be permanent, and take the necessary measures to secure them.

In general meetings of the farmers, let it be distinctly understood where the permanent road-making shall commence in their district, and let such a man be chosen as will carry out their resolves. Patch up other roads temporarily, and build as much as possible of the right kind of road each year, according to a settled programme. It will not be long before the whole district will be rejoicing—yea, all the districts of our State would be made glad.

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THE LIVE-STOCK BOARD'S  
REPORT.

The first report of the State Live-Stock Sanitary Board, covering a period from May 1, 1886, to December 1, 1887, shows:

Active work in the extirpation of contagious diseases was commenced last August. The following animals have been destroyed on account of pleuro-pneumonia: By the State officers—Diseased, 23, cost \$388; exposed, 294, cost \$3,255. By the United States bureau of animal industry—Diseased, 1,476; cost \$34,301 71; exposed, 1,422, cost \$37,305 29. Total killed, 3,215; total cost, \$75,750. The State, moreover, caused the total or partial destruction of twenty-four buildings, at a cost of \$1,643 47. The disease was located in Baltimore city, eight districts in Baltimore county, near Annapolis, Rhode and South rivers and Brooklyn, Anne Arundel county, Prince George's county,



near the District of Columbia, at Hood's Mill, Howard county, at Smallwood and Bird Hill, in Carroll county. The report states that tuberculosis has prevailed in a greater or less degree in all the counties of the State. Thirty-four animals suffering from this disease were killed at a cost of \$539. Glanders has increased among horses, though most of the recent cases can be traced to the District of Columbia. Twenty-two horses, appraised at \$552 50, were killed. The losses in the State by swine plague or hog cholera are very serious, and the annual loss amounts to \$500,000. Inadequate appropriation prevented attempts to stamp out the disease. Sheep have been free from disease. Losses have occurred on the Eastern Shore from the passage through some of the counties of bodies of cattle affected with Texas fever. The report urges the Legislature to adopt some plan by which the sale of consumptive meat or the milk of diseased cows may be prevented, and expresses the hope that pleuro-pneumonia, which has existed in Maryland for 40 years may soon be eradicated.

### Why Not?

In some localities of our State movements are being inaugurated for the introduction of canneries. There is room for many more within our borders and we believe farmers elsewhere may have the same advantages that are enjoyed in Harford Co., if they would unite and invite their establishment. Perhaps some of the extensive canneries of other regions might be induced to locate in the Eastern shore counties, or in more favored localities than they have at present, by a little judicious urging of a committee of farmers. Why not?

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

### INTERESTING ITEMS.

THE value of a good home is too often only realized when it is broken up and gone.

THERE are 700 incubators in this country, and their production is from 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 chicks per year.

IF your land is well underdrained you will often be able to plow while your neighbor who may not have underdrained is waiting for his ground to dry off before he can begin.

THE total value of exports of domestic breadstuffs from this country for the 11 months ending Nov. 30, 1887, was \$12,941,967 in excess of the corresponding period of 1886.

DR. SALMON says there are two contagious diseases known as hog cholera, one affecting the bowels, the other the lungs. The one is the genuine hog cholera, the other the swine plague. It is possible for an animal to have both diseases at the same time.

A NOVEL sight witnessed near Mount Vernon, Me., last week, was that of a man mowing on the ice. A portion of his farm is in swamp land, which is too wet to mow in summer, but by waiting until it freezes he is enabled to harvest a large crop of hay from it.

A NICE accessory to a closet without drawers, suitable for laying in a nice dress, is to make one or more bags to cover over a nice dress, and thus protect it from dust. These bags are made longer than the dress skirt and button up and are hung up by loops.

A LITTLE bunch of sheep always pays, provided dogs and wolves don't get them. They are very little trouble and cost almost nothing to keep. If a farmer will give his wife a few head of sheep, then throw in a little pasturage and keep his hands off the

profits, the children will be better dressed, the old lady more content, and the farmer will not so often have to put his hands in his pockets.—*Ex.*

ONE great advantage which the creamery has over the dairy is the fact that as soon as the milk, or cream, reaches the creamery it is in charge of skillful workmen, who know how to manage so as to secure the best results. There is no hap-hazard work about the creamery. The clock, thermometer and scales are used at every turn.

WINTER is the season for grafting trees and vines in the South. Where it is advisable to test new species, a few scions inserted on vigorous one or two-year-old stocks will grow faster and produce much quicker than upon their own roots. Fruit trees should be grafted near the collar, and vines beneath the surface, heaping the earth above the point of union and leaving the bud of the scion above ground.

THE following preparation applied to the surface will prevent any rusting on plows or any other metal surfaces: Melt one ounce of resin in a gill of linseed oil, and when hot mix with two quarts of kerosene oil. This can be kept on hand and applied in a moment with a brush or rag to the metal surface of any tool that is not going to be used for a few days, preventing any rust and saving much vexation when it is to be used again.

#### Canneries Removing.

We observe that canners from Harford Co., where the number of canneries has increased to 400, are proposing to find a new location for their business. In this connection, also, it is reported as one reason for change that the Harford land is becoming "Sick" of growing corn and tomatoes, notwithstanding the use of great

quantities of the best fertilizers. Is there not a question here for the earnest consideration of our farmers? Will not some of them report to us their experiences in this direction? Our columns are open to all.

#### Six Million Eggs a Day.

The population of New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City, Hoboken, Staten Island, Newark and Paterson consumes every day during Lent 3,000,000 eggs. It is safe to say that with what the bakers use the consumption of eggs within the area named is nearly 6,000,000 a day. When you figure up the total in money paid out for eggs in the cities named, you see that there is expended in this one item of diet during Lent \$120,000 per day, or for forty days \$4,800,000. At present writing eggs are making an average daily advance of two cents per dozen in New York. This is owing to the cold, severe snap, from which that State is now suffering. During a time when such enormous quantities of eggs are being consumed this advance in price is no small item. The hens must be getting rich.

WE are pleased with Mr. Colman's suggestion, that the seed division of the Agr'l Department of the General Government be abolished and this work be turned over to the Experiment Stations subsidized by the Government. We are not pleased that he should oppose the making of the head of the Agricultural Department a Cabinet officer. The objection he makes that it would intensify its political character is not valid. The degree of political consideration entering into this department would depend, even as at present, upon the character of the man at the head.

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The Premiums.

Do not forget to send for a premium, if you wish one, when you send in your subscription this month.

REDUCED POSTAGE.

We wish to record the vote of the MARYLAND FARMER in favor of reduced Postage. We are not only in favor of the reduction of letter postage to one cent an ounce; but also in favor of cutting down all postage on circulars to one cent for every four ounces, and upon all transient printed matter, such as music, books, &c., to one cent on every four ounces, and on all merchandise to one cent for every four ounces including seeds, plants, &c.

We are constantly having the experience also of the trouble of employing express companies to carry packages which chance to weigh a trifle over four pounds, and they are sure to charge three or four times as much as would satisfy Uncle Sam, for the same work. We must therefore vote to double the amount of pounds carried through the mail, as merchandise, making 8 instead of 4.

Express companies are a very great convenience, and it is by no means in the spirit of opposition to them that we would vote for this reduced postage; but the mail carries packages into twenty thousand or more localities, where express companies do not reach, and where this mail service is the only cheap means by which the farmers can be benefitted in the way of small agricultural supplies.

We also wish to protest against the foolish and absurd provisions of the present law, which strike off from the envelope or wrapper of second and third class matter, the business card of the sender. It will be allowed inside of the wrapper, but it is illegal on the outside, and requires payment of letter postage. Some other absurdities also need attention. The discrimination made against home printed magazines at free delivery offices. Thousands of pounds of monthly magazines are conveyed hundreds of miles across the country and delivered in our cities at one



cent a pound; but if the monthly magazine is printed in the city it must pay four cents a pound at the very least before it can be delivered to its subscribers there.

While changes are in process, let us have these things amended; let us no longer be obliged to employ special messengers to convey those portions of our correspondence which should pass through the post office on an equitable basis for all parties. We know that the P. O. Department have winked at slight irregularities; but we do not believe it is necessary to make these things irregularities. They should be properly recognized in the P. O. laws and rulings. And all laws of this character should invariably be liberally interpreted.

#### TWO GOOD APPOINTMENTS.

The placing of Hon. W. H. Hatch in his old position as chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture could not have been improved, so far as the desires of the great body of farmers can speak.

The same may be also said of the placing of the Hon. Thomas W. Palmer as chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

The Hon. W. H. Hatch gave name to the bill which is to establish Experiment Stations in all our States, and give them a substantial basis of money to enable them to do the work needed by our country everywhere.

The Hon. T. W. Palmer has already made his mark as a wide-awake farmer, the account of whose farm and stock appears in this number of our magazine. He is well versed in what the country needs to make the agriculturists successful as a class, and they may be certain that their interests will be made his own. He is a far-seeing man, as well as an independent thinker, and does not hesitate to do his duty at all hazards. Knowing that

the eyes of his farmer friends are looking to him for their good he will not disappoint them.

#### Insecticides.

The Field Force Pump Co., of Lockport, New York, sends us a circular containing the recommendations of Prof. Cook as to the use of London Purple or Paris Green. No doubt their pump will use Pyrethrum with just as much effect as these preparations of arsenic, and when it is remembered that the Entomological Department of the General Government has shown that Pyrethrum is just as effective as the others, we cannot see why the dangerous compounds should be used by the Farmers. Get one of their Pumps for spraying; but by all means make the spraying with Pyrethrum—then no danger will be risked, as to chickens, or cattle, or human beings.

#### A GOOD OFFER.

The *Horticultural Art Journal* \$3.00 a year, is one of the best illustrated monthly fruit and flower publications in this or any other country. Each number contains four full page illustrations, colored from life, of fruits and flowers—each one a gem of beauty and worth more than the price of the number. We have received a request to use this Journal in connexion with our own, and we will give a year's subscription of this to anyone of our subscribers who will send us \$3.00 cash, and we will credit the subscriber also with one year's subscription to the *MARYLAND FARMER*. Or we will send both the *Horticultural Art Journal* and the *MARYLAND FARMER* a full year to any new subscriber who will send us \$3.00. To these new subscribers we will send the Oct., Nov. and Dec. numbers of the *MARYLAND FARMER* of this year, and all of the year 1888. We can do nothing that will bestow greater pleasure than in making this offer of the *Horticultural Art Journal* in this way. Each illustration is a superb chromo of some new and attractive fruit or flower of life size. Send in the subscriptions.

### Our Poultry Extra.

On March 1st, we shall issue a Poultry Extra, with illustrations and all desirable information relating to poultry keeping and the poultry business. It is our desire to make this a work which will be kept as a book for reference, and it will be entirely distinct from our regular edition. Any of our readers interested in poultry, poultry keeping, or poultry selling, are invited to add to the interest and value of this extra number, by communications, advertisements, and by ordering liberally for distribution. Those already in the poultry business cannot do better than place their cards in this number, as we shall print many times more than our regular monthly issue. Cards occupying one inch of space will cost only 75cts. to \$1.50 according to position. See advertisement on another page.

WE hope none of our readers will fail to study well the letter of Mr. Brown, in the present number. It contains a lesson which should be a spur to those who have what are so generally looked upon as "pine barrens." These lands, we all know, were once the garden farms of Maryland, and their early owners lived from their produce as royally as princes. They can again be made garden farms, if intelligently cultivated.

### OBJECTS OF LIFE.

Looking upon it from a practical point the great objects of our life are comfort and happiness, and the great question for all of us to consider is, How and where can we best obtain these?

"How" involves the moral aspects of our lives as well as the practical work of life. "Where" speaks of our location and

the best place on the great footstool, all things taken into consideration.

In the many pursuits which claim our attention those are always preferable which do not lead to extravagant anxieties and troublesome cares. The mind has everything to do with the comfort and happiness of our lives. If overburdened by anxious thoughts, anticipating the difficulties and troubles of a very precarious occupation, oppressed with constant uncertainties upon which depend the happiness of our families, we are very far from comfort. Many pursuits are of this character and all occupations have a serious mixture of anxiety with which we must contend. The farmer's life is by no means free from it; but where one is accustomed to its labor and requirements, it certainly has as light a portion as any with which we are acquainted.

Different minds run in different channels, and it is always the case that some occupations are congenial, so that the cares and troubles incident to it are not felt; although upon others they would be overwhelmingly disastrous to the peace and enjoyment of life. These, however, are exceptional cases, and are not to be considered as weighing against the self evident fact, that we should seek that work for our lives which is surrounded by the least anxiety and care. Also, that to the great body of the people the farmer's life should stand very high, when we consider the nature of its joys and burdens and its capabilities of bringing to us both comfort and happiness.

Much however depends upon our location. Great moralists have dwelt upon the fact that locality has very little to do in the "make up" of individual happiness. But any such a statement has an evident fallacy about it, which every practical man or woman has frequently discovered. It is very much like the denunciations of wealth, we sometimes



hear from the pulpit. However plausible they may appear to the mind, the hearer instinctively feels there is a mistake somewhere, and that the pursuit of wealth has a legitimate place in our lives. So here we feel the locality has a very decided influence upon our lives, in the bringing of comfort and happiness.

We read in the papers of the past month of the fierce storms which have been sweeping through our Northern and Western States. Where intense cold accompanied by piercing winds and deluges of snow and ice, have rendered life a burden; where, in populous towns, school children on their way from school to their homes have been frozen to death, and farmers have been thus frozen on their way from their houses to their barns. We cannot rid ourselves of the conviction that other localities are preferable to these.

A location where the extremes of heat and cold are not such as to seriously interfere with the pleasant occupations of life, and the pursuits which are congenial to our nature is desirable. A location not subject to the ravages of those diseases which terminate in sudden deaths is also desirable. A location where the surroundings naturally tend to promote comfort and happiness.

Choose then a life as free from troubles and anxieties as possible and a location which will naturally promote those pleasant pursuits which bring happiness. On the whole, the farmer's occupation and the country near the capital of our nation would seem best adapted for these great objects of life.

AMONG our advertisements will be found one of the "Lovell Washers." We have had it used in our family for months, and among all the washers we have tried—and they have been many—this is the best. It does the work splendidly and gives perfect satisfaction to all concerned.

## ON WINTERING HORSES AND COLTS.

The inquiry of one of our subscribers, was handed to "A. P. S." who was in our office just after its arrival, and he has given an answer which seems to cover the entire ground of the question. When stock of any kind are brought through the winter in extra condition their future will promise much better than otherwise. Often, also, a bad wintering will effect the entire after life of the animal, and become a permanent injury to him.

MR. EDITOR.—Is the practice of wintering horses and colts in pasture fields with open sheds and with no other maintenance than hay and straw and such sustenance as poor grazing may afford to be recommended, either on the score of economy or other reason? Its advocates tell us that they will fatten up rapidly in the spring if put on good grass. The temptation to save the cost of grain and mill feed is strong.

Are there any conditions and circumstances in which such cheap method—is judicious? Do hay and straw contain *all* the elements of nourishment necessary for the growth and thrift of the animal or enough of them to carry it until spring healthfully?

PIEDMONT.

The practice of wintering horses on poor food with little protection cannot be recommended either on the score of economy or proper consideration for the animals—at least in or near this latitude. If they go through the winter safe, with any flesh on them, they may pick up rapidly on good grass; but far better have them in good condition for the grass, by giving them proper rations and protection from the cold winds, rains and snow.

With plenty of good hay properly cured they will do without grain, as it contains the necessary elements to keep them in good order. Little or no value is in straw



which is composed almost entirely of woody matter beyond the power of animals to digest. If cut and mixed with mill feed or corn chop it proves of great service in filling up and dividing the feed, so that the juices of the stomach have a good chance to act on the starch and gluten of the grain and thereby secure the full benefit of the feed. Straw alone will neither make heat, flesh nor fat, and will pass through in nearly the condition it was when taken in, and when hay alone is given them it is better to use the straw for bedding and not give the animal the trouble of passing it through him.

We have never heard any practical, successful farmer advocate the wintering of horses and colts without proper food and shelter.

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For the Maryland Farmer.

#### THE TARIFF.

The article in the last number of the MARYLAND FARMER on this subject is an eminently practical one, and the concluding question is most pertinent. "Why should they (the farmers) alone disregard their best interests, while every other class is clamoring for help and is getting what they earnestly seek?"

Our leading politicians have adopted two methods of pacifying the farmers and of obscuring the true facts of the case. One is the enormous development of our cities and towns and the creation thereby of a large home market, and the other is the tariff on wool. Now as to the first a home market may or it may not be a good thing for farmers. If by the wholesale importation of foreign cheap labor from the cities and towns of Europe, our own cities and towns are filled to overflowing with a population who are in the aggregate unable or unwilling to compensate the producers of the food which they consume

—for such food—what then? In other words if we are importing the paupers of the world to be supplied at the expense of our farmers, then a "home market" is a delusion and a snare.

How are we to ascertain whether we are doing this or not? Well, one way to do it is to compare the compensation and profits of the farmer with the profits and compensation of the manufacturers and employees of the protected industries. The average income of the manufacturers may be judged from their palatial residences, their princely style of living and their large investments; the average compensation of the employee may be judged from local observation. (In Massachusetts the average pay of the employee in the cotton mills is \$9.44 per week.) In comparison what is the condition of the farmer? He works from sunrise to sunset, he has to struggle against all sorts of obstacles to keep body and soul together, he gets little else than a bare living for toil of brain and of muscle. And the employees of the farmer—usually the tramp labor of the country—cannot earn as a rule over at the outside \$8 per week for his employers, and the average compensation would doubtless be far below this figure.

No wonder town lots, in manufacturing districts, created and abnormally supported by an iniquitous tariff, are constantly increasing in price, while the farms are, in many localities, going back to their primitive desolateness. We have, by the folly of our statesmen, and the misrepresentation of the steamship companies, made our large cities and towns the poor houses of the world, supported by the farmers of America. This thing must be stopped. A home market is of no advantage, if it does not pay the producer a profitable or at least a proportionate compensation for his produce.

As to the second bone which is thrown

to the farmer, i. e. "the tariff on wool." It has been conclusively proven that the farmers of America pay far more in the form of a tax to the government, than they receive as extra compensation because of the tariff. This tax may be an equitable one but it is entirely unnecessary and ought to be abolished. If the wool industry is "infantile," subsidise it directly. Don't rob Peter to pay Paul.

The suggestions in the article in question are eminently wise and practical. The other industries have been protected, i. e. abnormally compensated, at the expense of our agricultural classes. It is time now to give the farmer a chance. Open the markets of the world to the American farmer and protect him from all foreign competition and we shall soon find that farmers' sons will no longer gravitate to the towns and the farmer himself be living in poverty. Farming is and ought to be the highest and most lucrative industry of our land and it must be made so.

J. H. GRIFFITH,

East Rockaway, N. Y.

For the Maryland Farmer.

### THE SWEET POTATO CROP OF THE EASTERN SHORE.

#### Pine Shatters.

A visit to the potato wharf in Baltimore during the shipping season will bring in view the enormous quantity of potatoes that are daily landed from the numerous steam and sailing boats trading with the Eastern Shore. During the season from 12,000 to 15,000 barrels are landed each week, and these coming from two counties on the Eastern Shore, Accomac and Northampton—prompted the writer to make enquiry regarding the manner of raising such a crop of potatoes, cabbage and other vegetables, and also as to the treatment of the land. It is all told so well by my

correspondent, I give you his letter, thinking some of your readers will be interested in the same, since so much of the same kind of land (tertiary formation) can be found along both sides of our grand bay, and equally suitable for trucking.

It will be seen that they are mainly depending upon the falling leaves of their woods for their manure:—*My Carbonaceous Matter*. I am told they pay from 15 to 25 dollars an acre for the privilege of gathering the leaves in the fall for their compost piles, and a good acre of leaves will manure 8 to 10 acres of potatoes. These pine leaves contain but little mineral matter. Carbon being their main composition, and the little heat spoken of oxidizes the hydrogen and soon new organic compounds follow, of an acid reaction—and this acid is what renders mineral matter soluble—and the accumulation of the organic acid with the carbonic acid formed (same acid from yeast powder to lighten bread) renders the land light and porous for the absorption of air and moisture, so that the roots can always find the great and important elements to form protoplasm—the starting point of both vegetable and animal life. This protoplasm is similar in composition to the albumen of the animal, from which a tiny fish, a whale or an elephant is developed. The component parts being carbon, (principally), hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, with a little phosphorus, lime and sulphur; the former to form the bone of the humming bird or eagle. Without a *full, healthy supply* of protoplasm, a rank growth of animal food cannot be expected.

A. P. S.

Dr. A. P. Sharp.—Dear Sir: It affords me much pleasure to answer your letter of the 30th which only reached me to-day. The sweet potato crop is the leading one on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, since the war, and especially within the last



fifteen years. The crop was quite extensively produced before the war, and at the conclusion of it, it paid good prices and of course was extended. It is a crop in our section that can be grown with little capital for those who do their own work; and a class of small farmers who were quite industrious took the lead. It has been exceedingly remunerative and in fact it has been our sole dependence for money—as this crop was adapted to transportation by sail vessel, the only means of shipment for some years succeeding the war.

We cart in immense quantities of pine shatters. When they are in the cattle yards we cover them with stable manure, mud (salt), marsh, turf, sand from along the shore, wood mold, ditch bank, or in fact any thing, put on many more shatters and continue it until it is five feet high. A little stable manure does a vast deal of good if there is sufficient to start a mild heat, so as not to fire fang—but we cart in so many shatters that we seldom get any heat. In February this is dug down with a big hoe, and thrown up in a heap, and is then hauled on the land. We put on at the rate of two hundred cart loads to the acre. This is plowed in, after being spread. The land is then generally plowed, dragged and rolled four times, which will get it in fine condition.

Our lands are a light sandy loam, easily tilled, and in April one horse will plow two acres in a day. We do most of our plowing with one horse. They have a red clay subsoil, and hold all the manure put on them—and come up very fast. I do not know the chemical analysis of the shatters. [The composition of the pine shatters is a simple form of woody matter entirely free of nitrogen and having little mineral matter in them, with more than the usual supply of hydrogen, the turpentine being free of oxygen; hence the rapid combustion over ordinary leaves.

The bulk of them however is carbon, and by the heating process, or fermentation, the carbon passes to carbonaceous acids and carbonic acid, therefore caution is necessary to prevent too much heat in the compost pile, or the carbon will pass to carbonic acid and ruin the manure, i. e. bring about the “fire fang” character, so called.—A. P. S.] They are a fine absorbent and have a mechanical action on the land in keeping the soil light and open, so that light and air can help it. Our potato crop yield is very variable owing to the time of digging. If dug early in August, when prices are high the yield is small. I had a barrel from 116 plants this year, or an average of 69 bbls. to the acre. This crop is being introduced in the northern markets. I have been shipping to Chicago for twelve years, and this year sold in Omaha for satisfactory prices. Only a few years ago two or three pungy loads would break the Baltimore markets down, now we put on that market ten to fifteen thousand bbls. a week, and they will clean up. I am sure you have noticed them on Bowly’s Wharf and South St. The above is the usual way of doing it. I had a good crop this year in poor sandy land, that I applied guano alone to. I think it would have been better if it had been coated over with the pine shatters. I cleaned my potato fields to-day and will commence on Monday to cover with pine shatters, and shall use guano also. In this way I can greatly increase my acres, and I know I can get a good yield.

The maximum about for getting manure as first described, was a thousand loads to every horse worked. The value of our pine shatters is very great, and can scarcely be over estimated. Without them we would have been a very poor people to-day. Our crop of sweets last year was very short, and I estimate it, 400,000 bbls.; 1886 was 25 per cent. larger. We have a fine line of steamers



from South St. wharf, 4 boats, with a capacity of 2500 bbls. at a load, and 8 trips are made in one week—there are also sail vessels running them from the various rivers—and the rail road, with stations 3 miles apart, running through the centre of the country. The white potato is generally grown on land after the sweets; with this crop guano alone is used.

We are now growing strawberries and other small fruit. The former in '85 and '86 paid gross \$400 per acre—the growing the crop is about \$40 per acre and picking \$60. The first blackberries paid well last year. Kale and spinach and cabbage are good crops and are well suited to the climate and soil. They are planted in the fall, and come off in the early spring. These crops including fertilizers do not cost over \$30 per acre, and pay from \$100 to \$400 per acre. One man in '87 sold clear of freights and commission \$12,950 from 50 acres of kale. Our lands grow clover and the grasses well. I think I made 2 tons of clover hay to the acre last season.

Our lands are still cheap, seldom exceed \$25 per acre, at this time. They have advanced since the coming of the railroad. This must be the garden for the 20,000,000 of people to the north, west and east of us; now that we have the transportation to reach them. Our various lines are competing for the business, and freight charges are reasonable to all points.

I visited a man a few days ago, who sold \$2,000 from 8 acres of egg-plants and tomatoes last season. He now has quite a large quantity of lettuce to go into market, and has the plants to replant the beds (they are covered with cheap oiled muslin) as soon as this crop is off. He has radishes now as large as my little finger. This man came here in '84 and I judge had very little money, and is going ahead—he has but one mule to do his work. Our oyster

and fish trade is quite large and is bringing money to those engaged in the business.

I am just starting a farm, that is about in the condition you say your Kent Co. farm was when it came into your possession—I shall fertilize 40 acres and sow in oats, plow under the oats, fertilize again and sow in black peas, plow them under, and the following year put the land in potatoes, the total cost will not exceed \$50 per acre and the potatoes ought to give a profit of \$50 per acre. I shall then have made the value of the land, and left it in good condition. This system will be pursued with the balance of it.

I have read with pleasure your experience in Kent Co. Now I should like to know how you do it? ORRIS A. BROWN.

Accomack C. H., Va.

For the Maryland Farmer.

#### OUR CALIFORNIA CORRESPONDENCE.

Apples are brought to our market in boxes which hold a little less than a bushel, and are now selling (Dec. 24) at \$1.50 to \$2.50 a box. If a few are sold, they are choice ones at 5 cts. a pound. Potatoes are also sold by the pound at one cent, or one and a half, or two cents a pound.

The strawberry guava is a small fruit, about the size of a cherry, full of small seeds, of a dark purple color. They grow on bushes two or three feet high, and are used as preserves. I have eaten them, without being at all attracted with them; but think they might be so cooked as to satisfy the palate. They are not now in season. It will soon be time now for strawberries to make their appearance, and they are said to be of remarkable size and flavor; but I will report more in reference to these things, after they are tested by me.

We are having what is called "a cold

snap" here, now. The thermometer has fallen as low as 46 degrees when we got up in the morning. However, we light our little gasoline stove and in a few minutes the slight chill disappears from the room and no more fire is needed until evening. Of course we have no need of stoves such as you are forced to have and

no fires except for cooking purposes. Midwinter weather and it is delightful. I hear that the thermometer has been 13 degrees below zero in Kansas City, our former home. How can people live in such a climate when this delightful region is inviting them to enjoy life?

San Diego.

E. W. S.

## THE GARDEN.

### NOTES ON THE TOMATO.

The tomato is a native of Peru. The original wild type is the "Cherry Tomato" of the gardens. It was early cultivated in

grown for market. It was first grown in this country for market purposes about 1830. For about thirty years its development was rather slow, but since that time it has been almost marvellous, both in the



New Queen Tomato.

Peru, gradually developing into some form of the common tomato. It was grown in Europe in the 16th Century, and on to about the year 1800 when it was first multiplication of sorts, and the excellent quality of many of them. And none the less remarkable is the great increase in its production, for it is now one of the

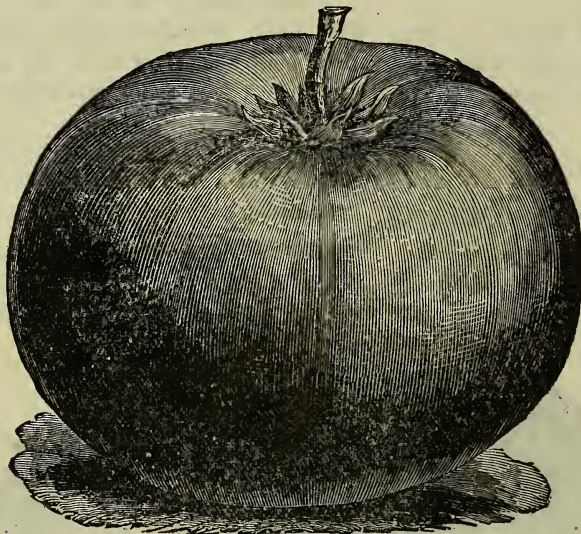


prominent industries of the country. Almost everybody uses tomatoes as a food, and they are used the whole year round. Besides the immense quantities used at home, large shipments are constantly being made to all parts of the world; for America leads the world in tomatoes as in many other things.

The essential qualities for a good tomato should be smoothness of surface, solidity, handsome shape, good color and uniformity in ripening. Among the kinds we consider superior in these particulars are Bolgiano's New Queen and Prizetaker

#### THE NAVY BEAN.

Year after year we have observed that this Bean has been in large demand and during the winter has commanded very high prices. It does not need an exceedingly rich soil and can be grown to great advantage with no more labor than any ordinary crop. It now sells readily at \$2.25 a bushel wholesale, and is generally bringing about \$3.20 a bushel retail. On comparatively poor land twenty bushels can be raised to the acre giving the crop comparatively little attention. We urge upon our farmers the advisability of put-



The Prizetaker Tomato.

tomatoes. The first is large, round, smooth, solid, of bright red color and ripens right up to the stem; it is the most popular sort with canners all over the country, and as a market sort has no equal. The Prizetaker is somewhat similar in shape to the Queen, about the same size, a little deeper through, and of a beautiful crimson color. Sent out last year for the first time it gave entire satisfaction. Among other good sorts we would name Bolgiano's Early Red, Acme, Paragon, Favorite and Beauty.

ting in a few navy beans, and give below a few items in reference to their management:

"To grow the navy bean successfully, any dry tolerably rich land suits them, but no damp, tenacious soil should be chosen, as the least stagnant water, either upon or near the surface, is fatal to the bean plant, even if it should vegetate and grow. A dry, mellow loam, a little inclined to be sandy, is undoubtedly best; and although not necessarily rich, should at least be in good heart. Fresh manuring, however, is



very objectionable, as it is apt to cause them to run too much to vine at the expense of the crop.

When planted on corn stubble, (and which is probably the best place for them,) they will need no cultivation after being drilled in—that being the best method of sowing the seed. But if the land has not been in any hoed crop the year previous it had better be broken up (not very deep) in the spring, and let lie until about the tenth or fifteenth of June, as if sown earlier the cold nights are apt to so check their growth that the weeds will get ahead and choke them.

On going to plant, the land should be cross-shoveled and harrowed, and if possible rolled until the surface is in fine tilth, and as level as possible, so that the vines can be cut with a machine or hand-scythe, and then raked into small piles and allowed to become completely cured before hauling to the barn, where they should be thrashed out with hand-flails and spread out on the barn-floor to become perfectly dry before storing away, as the least dampness will detract much from their merchantability.

And to guard against this it is best, before hauling in from the field, to have a raised floor, constructed of rails, on the barn-floor, on which to place the vines as they are hauled in, so that the air can circulate freely under them.

Or they may be cured with perfect safety in the field by stacking around poles—the latter to be trimmed perfectly smooth, sharpened at both ends, and about six feet in length. Plant the one end of the poles firmly in the ground, and lay old pieces of rails around it for a foundation on which to stack the vines. You are then ready for stacking, which is done by slipping the vine down from the tops of the poles and then topping them out with any kind of old straw.

When planted on corn stubble, as said

before, they will need no cultivation, so that they may be drilled in with a common wheat drill by closing every alternate spout, using about five pecks of seed to the acre. If, however, they are sown on land from which no crop had been taken the year previous, they will need cultivation to keep down the weeds, and the rows should therefore stand about two and a half feet apart, so as to admit the cultivator to be run among them at least twice during the season, running the same twice in each row. The “navy” bean is perhaps the most prolific of any, as it certainly is the most saleable.”

#### HYACINTHS.

Hyacinths are among the very earliest flowers to delight us with their beauty. Cultivated in the house to a small extent, they can be so forwarded that in the first days of earliest spring they may make the front yard gay with bright colors. This

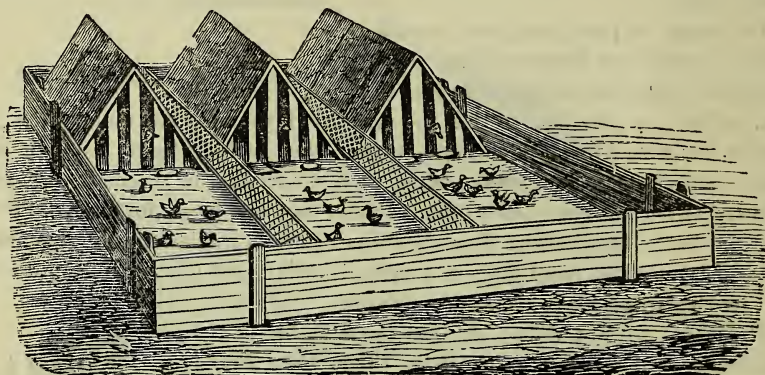


is especially the case, if some rustic device is secured similar to the above, when you can have the pleasure of seeing admirers looking upon your flowers, before any others less thoughtful have been able to show them. These rustic vases can so easily be conveyed into the house when the

freezing nights endanger the blooms, and replaced in the garden as soon as the weather is above the freezing point, that they are always desirable. Besides they are themselves an addition to the attraction of the flower garden or the lawn.

The RURAL NEW-YORKER of January 28th will be a special number in which those of our readers who are interested in

the farm or garden should take a special interest. This journal is doing a fine work for American agriculture—an original and a benevolent work. It was the first to have established an experiment farm purely in the interest of its readers, and it addresses itself to good, progressive farmers in all parts of our country. Specimens of the above number will be mailed to all of our readers who apply to the RURAL NEW-YORKER, 34 Park Row, New York.



#### CHICKEN AND DUCK INCLOSURE.

We present herewith a plan for chicken or duck coops, with inclosures, which will be found very convenient fixtures in any poultry-yard. These coops are made so that they are moveable, and can be constructed by almost any one conversant with the use of a hammer and nails. Any refuse boards and odd pieces are all that are necessary to build them. The coops can be set in any desired position, then fenced in with boards twelve to sixteen inches wide, as shown in our engraving, with stakes driven in the ground on each side of the boards at intervals to keep them from falling over. Put up in this manner the stakes can be withdrawn at will and the inclosure moved as often as

desirable. For partitions our engraving has shown a light wire mesh, which is easy to handle and can be procured at a very small cost. This is fastened into position by pinning down with wooden pins, which, in this way, is made also movable.

WE take notice that the *American Garden*, of New York has been absorbing some noted Horticultural magazines. A short time ago it purchased the *Floral Cabinet*, and now it announces the purchase of the well known *Gardener's Monthly* and *Horticulturist* of Philadelphia.

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER, with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.



## THE MOUSSEDO.

## HOME SONG.

Stay, stay at home, my heart, and rest,  
Home-keeping hearts are happiest,

For those that wander they know not where  
Are full of trouble and full of care;

To stay at home is best.

Weary and homesick, and distressed,  
They wander east, they wander west,  
And are baffled, and beaten, and blown about  
By the winds of the wilderness of doubt:

To stay at home is best.

Then stay at home, my heart, and rest:  
The bird is safest in its nest.

O'er all that flutter their wings and fly  
A hawk is hovering in the sky:

To stay at home is best.

## COUSIN HANNAH.

BY CAROLINE F. PRESTON.

"Arabella, I have some news for you,"  
said Mrs. Holmes, as the latter came in  
from a shopping excursion.

"What is it? pleasant I hope,"

"Humph? There may be two opinions  
about that."

"At any rate, tell me. I'm all in a fidget  
to find out."

"Well, I've received a letter from your  
Uncle Benjamin, saying that with my per-  
mission his daughter will come and make  
us a visit of a week or fortnight."

"Oh, dear, what a trial? He's a farmer,  
isn't he?"

"Yes."

"And I suppose she's a countrified body,  
with a gait like an elephant, and a regular  
Yankee twang."

"Very likely. I haven't been there

since she was a baby, and now she's eigh-  
teen—just your age."

"When is she coming?"

"She will be here early next week, your  
uncle writes."

"And our party comes off Friday evening.  
How unlucky. What will Mr. Stanton  
say? What sort of an idea will he get of our  
connections?"

"I suppose every one has some vulgar  
relations."

"Yes but they take care to keep them  
in the background. Couldn't you write to  
have the visit postponed a week?"

"No, she'd be sure to find out why it  
was, and your uncle would be offended."

"That wouldn't be much matter, would  
it?"

"Considerable just now, as I am intend-  
ing to get an invitation for both of us to  
spend the summer at his farmhouse. He  
has a fine farm, and we should have a  
delightful time."

"So we should. Well, I must do my  
best, then, to play the agreeable to this  
countrified cousin of mine. I only hope  
she won't disgrace us."

"We can keep her in the background as  
much as possible without exciting her  
suspicions. Very likely she may be diffi-  
dent, and that will help us."

It will readily be guessed, from the pre-  
ceding conversation, that Arabella Holmes  
and her mother were not a bit more unself-  
ish or disinterested than the majority of  
their fashionable neighbors.

This Mr. Stanton to whom Arabella had  
referred was a rising young lawyer, of a  
good family, and considered an excellent  
match. It may be that Arabella had de-  
signed upon him, but if so, we will respect



the lady's secret and leave it to be guessed at.

Days slipped away, and on Tuesday of the following week the country cousin arrived. The servant supposing the ladies had gone out, ushered her at once into the chamber designed for her occupation.

Now, it happened that Arabella's chamber was the one adjoining, and that she and her mother were just then sitting down there.

"I suppose my cousin will be here this afternoon," said Arabella.

"Yes I presume so."

"By the way, what is her name?"

"It is really ridiculous, but, I can't remember. Your uncle didn't mention it in his letter."

"Some country appendage most likely. Rachael or Hepsibah, or something of the kind. Do you suppose she talks very broad Yankee?"

"I am afraid she does," said Mrs. Holmes, "Farmers' daughters most generally do I suppose."

"I suppose her talk will be about caows and such things."

All this could be distinctly heard by the subject of the flattering remarks.

"Humph!" said she, "I see what my aunt and cousin are expecting in me. Really, it would be a pity to disappoint them."

She glided down stairs, and in a few minutes was introduced to her aunt and cousin.

"Haow do you dew, aunt?" said she in the most rustic tone she could assume. "Pooty smart of your age, ain't yer?"

"Good heavens, what a barbarian!" thought the aunt, shrinking back. "However it won't do to notice it."

"My health is very good, thank you. Are your family well?"

"O, they're pretty chirp. This is cousin Arabella, ain't it?"

Arabella extended her hand languidly.

"Hope you're well, cousin. You ain't married, are you?"

"I don't approve of early marriages," said her mother, speaking for her.

"That's what I told Jim Doolittle last week, when he—O lor, what was I going to say?" she interrupted herself with a semblance of bashful conclusion.

"You may catch a city beau," said Arabella, keeping as sober as she could.

"You don't think so, though, do you? Well, I believe I should like a city feller. You'll introduce me round, won't you?"

"O dear, what made me suggest such a thing to her," thought Arabella, troubled. "Now she'll be putting herself forward and disgust everybody."

"Does your father keep many cows?" asked Arabella, desirous of drawing out her rustic cousin, and leading her to say something ridiculous.

"Caows?" returned her cousin with volubility. "He's got ten. There's a brown heifer with a white streak running along her back. That's mine. Quite a present, wasn't it? I guess she's worth about \$25."

"Really, quite a fortune," said Arabella.

"By the way, cousin, I'm ashamed to confess it, but I don't remember your name—Christian name I mean."

"Hannah," was the reply. "I was named after Aunt Hannah; Hannah Brown isn't so bad a name. Do you think 'tis?"

"How horribly old-fashioned!" thought Arabella, but she only said, "O no, it's quite tasteful and genteel, though I dare say you won't object to changing the last name by and by, will you?"

"O, you sly critter," laughed Hannah. "You'll make me color up to the roots of my hair if you go on so. I ain't in no hurry. Some time or other perhaps somebody will take me off father's hands."

"What do you think of her, mother?" asked Arrabella, when they were alone.

"She is quite good-looking, and is better dressed than I expected to see."

"I admit all that. But what a plebeian name she has got?"

"What is it?"

"Hannah."

"Horrid. How could her father fasten such a name on her?"

"O, she was named after an aunt, I believe."

"Not after me, thank goodness."

"Then what a perfect rustic she is. Such country phrases! Did you notice her first words, 'Haow do you dew?' Could anything be more countrified? Must she appear at the party?"

"I don't see how it can be helped."

"I tremble to think how she will behave. Ten to one she will begin to talk of her father's caows. That's about all she can talk about."

"Her conversational powers do appear rather limited."

"What's that?" asked Hannah, taking up a French book from the table. "It's the queerest words I ever got hold of. I can't make out what it means."

"O, that's a French book," said Arabella, condescendingly.

"Is it though really? You can't read it, can you?"

"O certainly."

"Why won't you read me a little?"

Arabella was not a very profound French scholar, but she liked to show off, and confiding in her cousin's ignorance, she translated a page quite volubly, though with additions and alterations which would have astonished any competent scholar.

"Lor, how learned you must be," was Hannah's comment. "It took you a good while to learn, didn't it?"

"Yes," said Arabella, rendered quite gracious by the compliment. "However,

I had a natural turn for it, so I suppose I made more rapid progress than some."

The next day the ball was spoken of.

"What! Are you going to have a ball?" said Hannah. "Ain't that nice? I never was at one of your city parties. I shall enjoy it ever so much."

"What will be fun to you will be death to me," thought Arabella. "I wish you were back in your father's farm-house."

Friday evening came, and with it the party. Arabella conducted her cousin into the room, and, leading her up to a quiet old lady in the corner, introduced her, trusting that her awkwardness would not attract general notice. She then went away to attend to other guests.

Mr. Stanton entered the room. It chanced that the old lady with whom Hannah was conversing was an intimate friend of his mother, whom he had not seen for a long time. He went up to her and paid his respects. She introduced Hannah, and the two fell into conversation. The latter had thrown off all her rusticity, and responded intelligently. He proposed a promenade—Hannah accepted.

"Good heavens!" thought Arabella, looking round, "if there isn't Hannah walking with Mr. Stanton. How she must be exposing herself."

With the benevolent intention of relieving Mr. Stanton of the infliction, she hastened to them, and devised a pretext for calling Hannah away.

"Indeed," said Mr. Stanton, courteously, "I must protest against this. I am just about to introduce a friend to your cousin."

"O, he's going to get rid of her in that way," thought Arabella. "Well it'll save me the trouble."

She could not help feeling a little curious to know what friend it was that Hannah was to be introduced to. Judge of her surprise when it proved to be a French gentleman, who, she well knew, could scarcely speak a word of English.

"Mr. Stanton is going to have some fun out of her," she thought, half mortified half desirous of hearing the conversation that would ensue between the rustic cousin and the Frenchman.

Accordingly she drew near. The Frenchman addressed a few remarks in his native language.

"What will she say?" thought Arabella, maliciously.

Imagine her astonishment when Hannah, in the most natural manner in the world, replied in the same language.

The conversation was sustained for some time.

"Can she have been deceiving us?" thought the bewildered Arabella.

Just then Mr. Stanton begged Hannah to accept his escort to the piano. She accepted, and performed a brilliant sonata in admirable style.

"Her touch is superb," said a gentleman to Arabella. "Who is she?"

"A cousin of mine, Miss Brown," said Arabella, not without complacency.

"Will you introduce me?"

"Certainly."

At length the party was over. As soon as the last guest had gone, Arabella's curiosity broke out.

"Why, Hannah, how could you deceive us so? I really thought you quite a rustic."

Hannah's eyes twinkled.

"So I conjectured," said she. "and I wanted to teach you a lesson, that was all. Believe me, Cousin Arabella, one may live in the country, and not be altogether countrified. If you wish to be convinced, my father has authorized me to give your mother and yourself an invitation to spend a month next summer with us."

"Thank you; I shall be delighted to come. I feel that your rebuke is deserved. But is your name really Hannah?"

"It really is, and I dislike it as much as yourself. But I have another name

—Jennie—by which I am always called at home."

A year has passed since Cousin Hannah's visit. There have been some changes in that time. Among other things, her name has changed. She writes it now Jennie H. Stanton. Arabella has so much improved from companionship with her that her husband (she is to be married next week) will be under great obligations to cousin Hannah.

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For the Maryland Farmer.

### A DISEASE!

There are days in all of our lives when it seems as though everything was going wrong. It always begins early in the morning when we first get out of bed. We find the fire all out, or perhaps we have forgotten to prepare the kindling wood ready for the fire. And so it goes on from bad to worse through the entire day! As a general thing it will be found to be the person's own fault that things go wrong. He has got up as the old saying used to be, from the back side of the bed, and of course he is not in good humor with things in general. I think such a person is more to be pitied than blamed. It is a disease of the nature, the same as a bilious attack of the body. It needs doctoring. Some may say with a little oil of the birch twig; but I think not. Give them a helping hand in the way of some good advice. Show them how easy it would have been had they yesterday planned and prepared for to-day.

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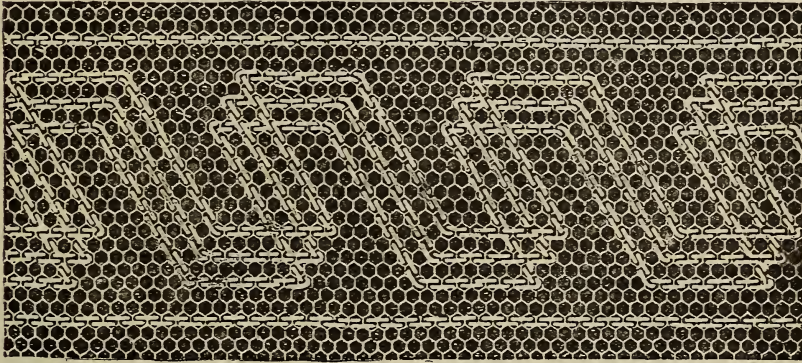
The extreme cold weather in the Western States and the loss of over 300 lives by freezing should warn those who are blest by a milder climate to hesitate before changing their location.



## DARNED NET.

Darned netting is one of the simplest and most easily executed forms of fancy work; yet there are hundreds of pretty and useful articles which may be formed by means of it. A square of silk net six inches across darned with blue floss silk,

surrounded by a ruching of quilled lace and jaunty blue bows makes a charming breakfast cap. Tidies of canopy lace darned with linen floss are handsome and serviceable. Our illustration gives a border and the pattern for a ground in this work.



## OLD SAYINGS.

As poor as a church mouse,  
As thin as a rail;  
As fat as a porpoise,  
As rough as a gale;  
As brave as a lion,  
As spry as a cat;  
As bright as a sixpence,  
As weak as a rat.

As proud as a peacock,  
As sly as a fox;  
As mad as a March hare,  
As strong as an ox;  
As fair as a lily,  
As empty as air;  
As rich as Cæsar,  
As cross as a bear.

As pure as an angel,  
As neat as a pin;  
As smart as a steel-trap,  
As ugly as sin;  
As dead as a door-nail,  
As white as a sheet,  
As flat as a pancake,  
As red as a beet.

As round as an apple,  
As black as a hat;  
As brown as a berry,  
As blind as a bat;  
As mean as a miser,  
As full as a tick;  
As plump as a partridge,  
As sharp as a stick.

As clean as a penny,  
As dark as a pall;  
As hard as a millstone,  
As bitter as gall,  
As fine as a fiddle,  
As clear as a bell;  
As dry as a herring,  
As deep as a well.

As light as a feather,  
As firm as a rock;  
As stiff as a poker,  
As calm as a clock;  
As green as a gosling,  
As brisk as a bee;  
And now let me stop,  
Lest you weary of me.

### Books, Catalogues, Reports, &c.

BEAUTIFUL Specimens from the Photo. Engraving Co., 67 to 71 Park Place, New York.

CATALOGUE of "Reliable Seeds at honest prices" from J. F. Tillinghast, La Plume, Pa.

THE Catalogue of Seeds, Plants, Tools, &c., of R. & J. Farquhar & Co., Boston, Mass. The plate of Pansies is superb. Send for it.

FRANK LESLIE'S Popular Monthly with the Angels of Prayer for a title illustration, and the leading article on the Sculptors of New York, is a grand number for February.

THE well earned celebrity of Vick's Seeds and Plants only needs from us the reminder that *The Florist's Guide* is now ready for those who will send 10 cts. for it. And this 10 cts. will be allowed on first order.

THE Horticultural Art Journal gives us four superb plates of flowers, two of them Pæonias and two of Roses. The plants of Roses each include three superb specimens. Address Stecher Lithograph Co., Rochester, N. Y.

The *Woman's Magazine*, from Brattleboro, Vt., makes its appearance on our table. Its paper and print are unexceptionable; and its contents have always been attractive and do not degenerate as the year pass.

The *Delineator* with its record of fashions and the full description of materials, patterns and work is a precious visitor to every home it reaches. One dollar is well spent for it to the Butterick Publishing, Co., New York.

WE have received Vol. 1., No 1., of the *Home and Health Library*, of Chicago, Ill. It is a quarterly at \$1.00 a year. This initial number is beautifully printed

on fine paper, and contains a large variety of excellent reading, dealing with topics which belong to our every day life.

From Bartlett, Haywood & Co., General Agents, we have received Catalogue and description of the Hazelton steam boilers, sometimes called the Porcupine boilers, from the peculiar construction of its tubes for generating steam. It will pay those who need a boiler to call and examine them.

WE are in receipt of a beautifully engraved Calendar from Doliver, Goodale & Co., Boston. We shall have it hanging in our study during the year to come, for we do not expect anything to excel this in beauty of workmanship and artistic taste. It will be mailed to any address for 10 cents.

THE Seed Catalogue of Robert Buist, Jr., Philadelphia, Pa., with beautiful cover, and attractive contents should be in every farmer's household.

THE *London Horticultural Times* comes to us as promptly as any of our publications, and is always readable.

WE were favored with an "office call" from the representative of the *Rural New Yorker*, that old paper which is always young. May it grow in circulation, usefulness and power.

FROM Department of Agriculture, Report on Crops, Food and Food Adulterants, Forestry Reports in favor of Chestnut Oak for Railroad ties, Letter of Commissioner Colman, on employees obtaining patents.

SEED Catalogue of J. Bolgiano & Son, of Baltimore, Md.

For other book notices, see Guide.

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